Conference on Disarmament

14 September 2018
English
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Note verbale dated 14 September 2018 sent to the Conference on Disarmament by the permanent representation of France, containing the statement of 14 April 2018 by the President of the French Republic, Mr. Emmanuel Macron, on the intervention by the armed forces of France in response to the use of chemical weapons in Syria

The Permanent Representation of France to the Conference on Disarmament presents its compliments to the Office of Disarmament Affairs and has the honour to send it herewith the statement of 14 April 2018 by the President of the French Republic, Mr. Emmanuel Macron, on the intervention by the armed forces of France in response to the use of chemical weapons in Syria.

The Permanent Representation of France would be grateful if the secretariat of the Conference on Disarmament would circulate this document to member States and observers in the Conference and issue it as an official document of the Conference on Disarmament.

The Permanent Representation of France to the Conference on Disarmament avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs the assurances of its highest consideration.

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Statement by the President of the French Republic, Mr. Emmanuel Macron, on the intervention by the armed forces of France in response to the use of chemical weapons in Syria, 14 April 2018

1. On Saturday, 7 April 2018, dozens of men, women and children were massacred in Douma with the use of chemical weapons, in complete violation of international law and United Nations Security Council resolutions.

2. There is no doubt as to the facts and the responsibility of the Syrian regime.

3. The red line established by France in May 2017 has been crossed.

4. I therefore ordered the armed forces of France to intervene last night, as part of an international operation conducted in a coalition with the United States of America and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, against the clandestine chemical weapons arsenal of the Syrian regime.

5. Our response has been limited to the Syrian regime's facilities for the production and use of chemical weapons.

6. We can have no tolerance for the normalization of the use of chemical weapons, which poses an immediate danger to the Syrian people and to our collective security. That is the essence of the initiatives constantly put forward by France at the United Nations Security Council.

7. France and its partners will today resume their efforts at the United Nations to set up an international mechanism to establish responsibility, prevent impunity and obstruct any temptation on the part of the Syrian regime to repeat these acts.

8. Since May 2017, France has consistently had the same priority objectives in Syria: to finish the fight against Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant; to allow civilians to have access to humanitarian assistance; to set in motion a collective momentum to come to a peaceful settlement of the conflict so that peace can finally return to Syria; and to ensure the stability of the region.

9. I shall pursue these objectives with determination in the coming days and weeks.

10. In accordance with article 35, paragraph 2, of the Constitution, the French parliament will be informed and a parliamentary debate will be held following this decision to order the intervention of our armed forces abroad.